CLAIM LIST

1. (canceled)

2. (previously presented) A composition comprising microspheres, wherein said microspheres have a wall thickness of 100 to 500 nm, and a bulk density of no more than 0.1 g/cm^3.

3. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 2, wherein the mean geometric particle size of said microspheres is less than 20 μm.

4. (currently amended) A composition comprising microspheres, wherein said microspheres have a wall thickness of 43.5 to 261 nm~~, and a bulk density of no more than 0.1 g/cm^3~~.

5. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 2 wherein the walls of said microspheres comprise albumin.

6. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 2 obtainable by spray-drying a wall-forming material in combination with a blowing agent.

7. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 2 wherein said microspheres comprise a bioactive agent.

8. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 7, wherein said microspheres comprise a protein or peptide.

9. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 7, wherein said microspheres comprise an active agent selected from the group consisting of insulin, growth hormone and interferon.

10. (previously presented) An inhaler comprising an inhalable formulation of microspheres wherein said microspheres have a wall thickness of 100 to 500 nm, and a bulk density of no more than 0.1 g/cm^3 and wherein said microspheres comprise a bioactive agent.

11. (previously presented) The inhaler according to claim 10, wherein the formulation comprises the microspheres as the sole or the predominant component thereof.

12. (previously presented) A method for pulmonary administration of a bioactive agent wherein said method comprises the administration to the lungs of a composition which comprises

microspheres having a wall thickness of 100 to 500 nm and a bulk density of no more than 0.1 g/cm^3, wherein said microspheres further comprise a bioactive agent.

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the mean geometric diameter of said microspheres is less than 20 μm.

14. (previously presented) A method for pulmonary administration of a bioactive agent wherein said method comprises the administration to the lungs of a composition which comprises microspheres having a wall thickness of 43.5 to 261 nm and a bulk density of no more than 0.1 g/cm^3, wherein said microspheres further comprise a bioactive agent.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the walls of said microspheres comprise albumin.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said microspheres are obtainable by spray-drying a wall-forming material, in combination with a blowing agent.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said microspheres comprise a protein or peptide.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said microspheres contain a bioactive agent selected from the group consisting of insulin, growth hormone and interferon.

19. (previously presented) A method for diagnosis wherein said method comprises administering to a patient in need of such diagnosis, a composition which comprises microspheres having a wall thickness of 100 to 500 nm and a bulk density of no more than 0.1 g/cm^3.

20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the mean geometric diameter of said microspheres is less than 20 μm.

21. (previously presented) A method for diagnosis wherein said method comprises administering to a patient in need of such diagnosis, a composition which comprises microspheres having a wall thickness of 43.5 to 261 nm and a bulk density of no more than 0.1 g/cm^3.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the walls of said microspheres comprise albumin.

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said microspheres are obtainable by spray-drying a wall-forming material, in combination with a blowing agent.

24. (previously presented) A method for preparing microparticles, wherein said method comprises spray-drying wall-forming materials and wherein said method further comprises inclusion of a blowing agent in the feedstock for spray-drying.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein said blowing agent is selected from the group consisting of ammonium acetate, ammonium carbonate, and acids.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein said wall-forming material is albumin.

27. (new) A composition comprising microspheres, wherein said microspheres have a wall thickness of 100 to 500 nm, and a bulk density of no more than 0.3 g/cm^3.

28. (new) The composition according to claim 2 wherein the bulk density is no more than 0.05 g/cm^3.